

**Accident No.: DCA13MR002**

**Accident Type: Train Derailment with Hazardous Materials Release**

**Location: Paulsboro, New Jersey**

**Date: November 30, 2012**

## **Preliminary Report**

*The information in this report is preliminary and will be supplemented or corrected during the course of the investigation.*

On November 30, 2012, about 6:59 a.m. eastern standard time, southbound Conrail freight train FC4230 consisting of two locomotives and 82 cars derailed seven cars, the 6th through the 12th, near milepost 13.7 on the Conrail Penn's Grove Secondary track in Paulsboro, New Jersey. The derailment occurred while the train traveled over the Paulsboro Movable Bridge.

Four tank cars that derailed on the bridge structure came to rest with portions of the cars in the Mantua Creek. Three of the tank cars contained vinyl chloride, and one contained ethanol. One of the tank cars carrying vinyl chloride breached during the derailment. Conrail reported that the breached tank car released approximately 180,000 pounds of vinyl chloride into Mantua Creek and the surrounding area.

After the accident, 22 local residents were treated and released at nearby hospitals. The conductor of the train was also treated and released. The initial damage estimates provided by Conrail are \$721,114, which does not include environmental remediation. The weather at the time of the derailment was cloudy skies with a temperature of 34° F and calm winds.

Train movements are governed by the Northeast Operating Rules Advisory Committee (NORAC) operating rules and the Conrail timetable. The maximum authorized speed over the 160-foot bridge is 10 mph. The locomotive event recorder data showed that the train was traveling 7 mph when it derailed.

Parties to the investigation include: the Federal Railroad Administration, Conrail, Trinity Tank Car, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, and the United Transportation Union.